

FIELD NOTES

RED-EYED VIREO MIMICS THE CALL NOTES OF THE CRESTED FLYCATCHER

In "Bird Lore" for September-October, 1920, (vol. xxii, page 287) Mr. E. A. Doolittle calls attention to a Red-eyed Vireo that frequently punctuated its ordinary song with the whistled call of the Crested Flycatcher. On July 24th of this year, while in a narrow strip of woodland near the Stillwater River about eight miles north of Dayton, Ohio, I heard a singing Red-eyed Vireo that imitated to perfection the shrill whistled "quirp" of the Crested Flycatcher. The flycatcher note was uttered at intervals throughout the song but never repeated twice in succession; as many as ten and as few as three of the regular phrases were uttered between repetitions of the flycatcher's call. During a period of about three hours this Red-eye sang three times, each song-period lasting from ten to fifteen minutes, and each time the strange note entered into the song with about the same regularity. On the following day the song was heard again for about five minutes at the same place, the flycatcher's call entering as prominently into the song as on the day before.

At first the flycatcher call was entirely deceptive but after listening to the Vireo for a short time the source of the note was obvious; the steady delivery of short phrases of the typical song was frequently punctuated with the characteristic high pitched whistle of the Crested Flycatcher, and so closely was this note followed by phrases of the regular song, that without a previous knowledge of this peculiarity, the Vireo would never have been suspected. Had not Mr. Doolittle's observation appeared in print, in all probability I would not have distinguished this note in the Red-eye's song, but likely would have passed up the bird supposing there was a Crested Flycatcher nearby also. As this bird does not to my knowledge imitate other birds, the selection of identically the same strange note by individuals in widely separated parts of the country is something more than a mere coincident; as Mr. Doolittle has already suggested, I believe it will eventually be found that this call note of the Crested Flycatcher is frequently employed by this species.

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ROBIN NEST ON GROUND

On May 6th, 1924, my sister-in-law, Mrs. T. J. Blincoe told me of finding a robin's nest on the ground under a rhubarb plant in the garden; I visited the place at once and found that the nest was unmistakably of robin construction and contained two typical eggs; a third egg was laid the following day and hatching took place on the 18th and 19th of the month; unfortunately the young were destroyed three days after hatching.

The nest was about midway between two rhubarb plants that stood approximately fifteen inches apart, and fit snugly in a depression that